

PROPERTY OF
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
RECEIVED JUN 13 1946

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

VOLUME XV, NUMBER 38

WASHINGTON, D. C.

JUNE 17, 1946

Nation Debates Proposals For More Democratic Army

Changes in Relationship between Officers and Enlisted Men Are Being Considered by the War Department

BOTH in the Army and out of it there continues to be a great deal of discussion about the recommendations made by the Doolittle "GI gripe board." This committee, officially known as "The Secretary of War's Board on Officer-Enlisted Man Relationships," was made up of two ex-sergeants and four ex-officers. The latter—including the chairman, General "Jimmy" Doolittle, who organized the first bomber raid on Tokyo—had all seen service as enlisted men.

The "gripe board" was set up this spring when criticism of the Army was at its loudest. The War Department had become increasingly concerned over the complaints of soldiers and veterans, for the draft could not keep the Army up to strength much longer and more and more dependence had to be put on obtaining volunteers. Should the American people lose confidence in Army leadership or begin to feel that military service was unreasonably harsh and irksome, enlistments would dwindle and our troops would soon be too few to discharge their duties in Europe, in Asia, and at home.

As the official name of the board indicates, the Army felt that most discontent could be traced to the relationship between soldiers and their officers. The relationship is based on an ancient military system which is in part a legacy from the red-coated regulars of George III and partly the gift of Baron von Steuben, staff officer of Frederick the Great and Washington's inspector general. The English and Prussian systems differed materially, but they agreed on one point. Both took it for granted that officers were gentlemen of at least some education

and culture and that the men in the ranks were simple, boorish fellows from the downtrodden lower classes.

Rooted in the soil of freedom, this Anglo-German military system developed its own American characteristics, but in the relationship between officers and men it retained enough of the old-world class distinction to irritate millions of recent draftees. The citizen-soldier was told to click his heels when an officer addressed him and to use "sir" in replying to his questions. He learned to doff his cap and call attention when an officer entered the room. He might speak with his own captain only by following a rigid formula: "Sir, Private Brown has the first sergeant's permission to speak to the company commander."

He found that officers were addressed collectively as "gentlemen," while the word for privates, corporals, and sergeants was "men"—and he wondered what insignia of rank had to do with being a gentleman. Gradually he learned that officers had rights, privileges, and comforts which he could never hope to enjoy—that their world was one which, to quote an all-too-familiar sign, was "out of bounds to enlisted personnel."

It was the task of the Doolittle board to explore the gulf which divided officers and men and then see what might be done to bridge it. The members began by studying the complaints of soldiers and the comments of civilian observers. They questioned 44 witnesses selected as a representative cross-section of the Army. They read more than a thousand letters, as well as countless articles and editorials in

(Concluded on page 6)



VIENNESE CANAL, along one of the tributaries to the Danube River. The Western Powers and Russia are in disagreement over both Austria and the Danube

Austrian Settlement?

Byrnes Presents New Treaty Draft at Big Four Conference; May Go Ahead Without Russia if Talks Fail

THE first postwar aim that the United States, Britain, and Russia agreed upon at the Moscow conference in 1943 was that Austria should be an independent nation. In the Moscow Declaration, they pledged themselves to guarantee her a democratic government and full economic security. Since the end of the war, however, final decisions on Austria have been blocked again and again by the conflicting interests of the Big Three.

Last month at the Paris conference of foreign ministers, Secretary of State Byrnes tried once more to have something done about Austria. He suggested two things. First, he wanted the other powers to cut the number of

occupation troops in Austria. Second, he urged France, Britain, and Russia to take up the question of a treaty carrying out the Moscow pledges. Russia refused to consider either proposal, pointing out that Austria was not on the conference schedule.

But now that the foreign ministers are back in Paris for another try at peacemaking, Byrnes has made it clear that he will fight hard to have Austria discussed. He has with him a new treaty draft guaranteeing Austrian independence and providing for free navigation on the Danube river, which flows through that country.

Whether or not Russia agrees to Byrnes' proposals for dealing with Austria, it is likely that some settlement will be made soon. The western Allies have hinted that they will make separate peace arrangements of their own if they cannot come to terms with Russia.

All three of the western powers are eager to see Secretary Byrnes' two suggestions adopted immediately. For one thing, they want to rid themselves of the burden of keeping large occupation forces in Austria. Another consideration is that they want to restore normal conditions in Europe quickly.

The United States, Britain, and France have good reasons for wanting to see Austria back on her feet. They bear a large share of the responsibility for relief so long as the country is too disorganized to take care of its own needs. More important, they know that the misery and chaos in Austria supply a fertile breeding ground for anti-democratic ideas. Lately, both Nazi and Communist agitation has been on the increase.

Russia, for her part, says Austria's

(Concluded on page 2)

To Discouraged Readers

By Walter E. Myer

I HAD a letter the other day from a reader who is depressed about the way our major problems are being mismanaged. As he sees it, the executive branch of the government is hesitant and uncertain, and Congress is inactive. Meanwhile, national and international problems rise mountainlike before us, and the country, it seems, is "going to the dogs." The writer of this letter fears that the people, dissatisfied with democratic inefficiency, may turn to dictatorship as the best way out of our troubles.

What should be one's attitude toward such a note of discouragement and cynicism? It would be pleasant to say that this reader is borrowing trouble, that though we may seem to be slow

in handling our problems, things will work out all right in the end. But one cannot honestly give such assurance. Things do not always work out right. After the First World War, our problems did not take care of themselves. They were not wisely handled, and as a result the country was plunged into disastrous depression, and the world was devastated by war. Such disasters may follow again if we do not watch our step.

Of one thing, however, I am certain: Dictatorship is not the way out. The idea that autocratic governments are efficient and that they take care of the needs of their people is utterly false. It would be hard to find a democracy which has blundered as stupidly as the autocracies have. Twice within a generation, autocratic governments of Ger-

many have needlessly brought their own people, as well as the people of other nations, to ruin. The governments of Italy and Japan have blundered along the same road to devastation.

No, there is no easy remedy for the deficiencies of democracy in time of crisis. Certainly improvement will not come if people are defeatist and cynical. The job of improving the quality of governmental action is difficult at best, and it calls for constructive effort.

Training to operate a democratic government should begin in the schools. If sufficient time is given for a thorough study of national and international problems and for moral and patriotic discipline, we may reasonably expect an improvement in the quality of citizenship and statesmanship. This is the surest road to travel in these times.



Walter E. Myer

I HAD a letter the other day from a reader who is depressed about the way our major problems are being mismanaged. As he sees it, the executive branch of the government is hesitant and uncertain, and Congress is inactive. Meanwhile, national and international problems rise mountainlike before us, and the country, it seems, is "going to the dogs." The writer of this letter fears that the people, dissatisfied with democratic inefficiency, may turn to dictatorship as the best way out of our troubles.

What should be one's attitude toward such a note of discouragement and cynicism? It would be pleasant to say that this reader is borrowing trouble, that though we may seem to be slow

Austrian Settlement?

(Concluded from page 1)

problems cannot be taken up until the Italian question has been settled. Since it is the Western Powers who have the strongest influence in Italy, Russia is eager to settle this issue first. In Austria, where she is strongest, she wants to hold on to her power as long as she can. Thus she has asked the other United Nations to withdraw their troops from Italy but has tried to postpone changes in Austria.

Of course, United Nations differences in Austria have their deepest meaning as part of the larger pattern of international rivalry. Russia knows that Britain and the United States have the lion's share of influence in

Much of Austria's industrial equipment has been moved to Russia and all but a tiny portion of her oil output is siphoned off to meet Russian needs. The Russians also exact money payments so large that the Austrian government has found it hard to manage its financial affairs.

Austria's biggest immediate problem under this arrangement is hunger. The country itself grows only enough food to supply each person with about 230 calories—about a tenth of what he needs for health. United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration supplies filled in the gap for a time, but were virtually exhausted

only must it cope with towering problems; it must do so without offending any of the four occupying powers. Since the Big Four are often at odds with each other, the government frequently finds itself unable to do anything.

This, of course, weakens its popularity with the people. When the present cabinet, led by the conservative People's Party, came into office after Austria's elections, it had strong popular backing. By now, however, support has dwindled. Many people feel that no government can function successfully until the peace terms are settled.

Yet, even when Austria emerges as an independent nation, her recovery will require a long, hard pull. She will probably return to her prewar boundaries and, with them, all the

All countries suffered, but Austria was probably most seriously affected. The peace treaty had left her a tiny Alpine state about the size of Indiana. She could not produce enough food to support her large urban population, and her industrial system was top-heavy. She was extremely dependent upon trade, both for food and raw materials and for markets in which to sell her manufactured goods.

With tariff walls springing up all over Europe, Austria found it increasingly hard to market her products, particularly the luxury items which had once been the pride of her capital. As a banking center, Vienna could no longer draw profits from the vast area it had dominated before the war. Even the tourist trade—previously another mainstay of the Austrian economy—declined badly.

All these factors combined to make Austria extremely poor throughout the 1920's. Unemployment was worse than in almost any other country. For years at a time, 20 to 25 per cent of Austria's workers were without jobs.

Political disunity added to the country's woes. The industrial workers of such cities as Vienna and Linz were strongly inclined toward socialism. The farmers of the outlying districts, on the other hand, were conservative.

Mounting Tension

Tension among the different political groups in Austria grew sharper and sharper. Through the late 1920's and early 1930's, that country was at the point of economic collapse and political civil war. Finally it adopted a totalitarian form of government in place of the democratic one it had installed in 1918. After that, it was only a few years before the country was swallowed up by the Nazis.

The lack of balance between her farm production and her industrial output may continue to plague Austria in the future. She is at a further disadvantage because the major powers have tentatively decided to give the South Tyrol region to Italy instead of returning it to Austria.

Austria wants the South Tyrol because it has been a center of tourist trade and might increase her income. She bases her claim to it on the fact that 180,000 of the Tyrolean people are Austrian while the area includes only 130,000 Italians. The big powers, however, are reported to feel that Italy needs the power plants of the Tyrol to bolster her industrial life.

Many people believe that Austria's greatest hope for the future lies in joining some kind of European federation of states. This would go a long way toward solving her foreign trade problem and might mean real prosperity for the country.

If Austria could be sure of free trade with her neighbors, she could develop her industry on a large scale, for she has fine resources. Her land offers coal, iron, and water power to make up for what it lacks in agricultural productivity. Furthermore, her population includes a large proportion of skilled workers.

Once Austrian industry can function at full capacity, most observers believe the country's other problems will take care of themselves. It is often pointed out that Austria's political troubles developed because she could not make her economy run. Given a fair degree of prosperity, it is believed that the Austrian people could carry on their political life without dangerous friction.



THE LAND AND RESOURCES of Austria, first of the European nations to come under Nazi domination

western Europe. She wants to be equally strong in the eastern half of the continent. On the other side of the picture, Britain and the United States do not want her to grow too powerful in eastern Europe.

For Austria, a speedy settlement of her peace terms is a life and death matter. As things stand now, her 6,650,000 people are suffering hardships which equal or surpass anything endured under the Nazis.

Since the end of the war, the country has been controlled under an occupation arrangement like Germany's. Each of the major nations administers a separate zone of the country at large and each one is in control of a section of the capital city of Vienna.

This alone is a terrible burden to the Austrian people. The United States is the only one of the occupying powers which brings in supplies for its troops. The British, French, and Russians "live off the land"—in other words, they take Austrian supplies to feed their forces. In the Russian zone, this is particularly serious, for the Russians have a huge occupation army. Whereas the other three United Nations combined keep around 50,000 men in Austria, Russia maintains a force of 130,000.

Furthermore, the Russians regularly take large quantities of money and goods from Austria in reparations.

by the end of last month. Now most Austrians face the prospect of extreme hunger and starvation.

If Austria could start up her industries again, she might hope to get more food by trading with near-by nations. But this is impossible with the system of occupation zones. The exchange of goods between zones is limited and is done almost solely by barter. This slows up the process of industrial recovery considerably. The western zones, for example, must find horses to trade for the salt of the Russian zone. There are delays at every hand and, lacking a good part of the industrial equipment they had before the war, the Austrians have not been able to get their factories going at peacetime speed again.

Benefits of Peace

Settling final peace terms for Austria would help solve many of these problems. If most of the occupation forces could be withdrawn, the country could use its meager resources for reconstruction. If the system of zones could be replaced by one overall administration, trade and industry would have a chance to improve. Also, the Austrian government would feel itself stronger and could take firm steps to deal with the great national difficulties.

At present, the government works under tremendous handicaps. Not

problems she faced in the years between the end of World War I and the time when Hitler incorporated her territories into Greater Germany.

Before World War I, Austria was part of a huge empire ruled by the Hapsburg family. The Austria-Hungary of that period sprawled over some of the richest areas in central Europe, taking in parts of what are now Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland, Romania, and Italy as well as the territories of present-day Austria and Hungary.

The Hapsburg empire was a nearly self-sufficient unit. It included important manufacturing centers and productive farm areas. Since goods could pass freely from section to section, the country as a whole was comparatively prosperous.

The Versailles peace treaty carved up this well-balanced unit into a series of small nations. There was a good reason for this step because the many different nationalities in Austria-Hungary craved political independence. Nevertheless, it proved unfortunate for the prosperity of central Europe.

As separate nations, the various parts of the old Hapsburg empire stopped trading freely with one another. They threw up tariff walls and began to compete economically instead of cooperating as they had before.

Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion

(The opinions quoted or summarized on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

"International Economic Interests of the U. S." by William L. Clayton, Foreign Commerce Weekly.

Peace will probably not prevail until trade among countries raises standards of living, and people of all nations can look forward to gradual improvement in their jobs and incomes. After World War I, almost all nations failed to recognize the relationship between international economic conditions and world peace. Cordell Hull, then a member of Congress, tried to secure free international trade, but he did not succeed. Tariff walls went up around all nations; depression affected first one part of the world and then another. Slowly we moved toward another war.

The economic problems which face us now are more serious than those of 1918. If there is ground for hope, it is because more nations and more individuals understand the problems.

The first big job is relief—we must save the millions who are starving. Then, production, housing, transportation, and essential public services must be re-established in war-devastated areas. For these jobs the United States must provide a good deal of the capital through loans.

We must prevent tariffs from again strangling world trade, and we must prevent monopolies from restricting production. The problems are not easy to solve, but our own prosperity and the peace of the world depend upon a worldwide effort to solve them.

"Air Power and the Coming Peace Treaties," by John C. Cooper, Foreign Affairs.

After World War I the Allies attempted to distinguish between civil and military aviation in the peace treaties. Germany was allowed to develop civil aviation as an aid to her economic recovery, but she was not to develop a military air force. At that time, many aviation experts argued that the separation of military and civil aviation was not possible. The industry required for one will support the other. Techniques for operating the aircraft are the same.

Planes built for civilian flying can easily be adapted for fighting.

What happened to Germany's aviation is well known. She expanded her civilian production, and when she was ready for war she had a powerful military air force.

The problem of what to do about Germany's air power faces us again today. In solving it, we must not forget the lesson of the past. Germany's civilian air power must not be allowed to grow except under the strictest supervision.

The United Nations Charter provides a means for exercising that supervision. A trusteeship can be set up over Germany's airspace, with the understanding that Germany may use that airspace only under license from the UN. Air transportation can be permitted, but it should be constantly investigated by the UN. Only when Germany is ready for membership in UN should these controls be lifted.

"Seven Wonders of the Modern World . . ." by Burton Holmes, This Week.

More than 2,000 years ago the original list of the seven wonders was compiled. By now practically all of them have crumbled into dust, and it is time to select new ones.

Let us suppose that Alexander the Great came back to earth, and wanted me to show him the new wonders. Our first stop would be at the Grand Canyon, No. 1 wonder of this and all ages; a million times more grandiose than antiquity's pride, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. A second modern wonder is the volcano of Paricutin in Mexico. In three years it has grown to half the height of Mount Vesuvius, which took thousands of years to build itself up.

A third wonder to astonish Alexander is the Empire State Building in New York. Alexander would recognize the fourth, however, for I would hold over the Sphinx and the Pyramids of Egypt on my list of modern wonders.

No. 5 is the harbor at Rio de Janeiro, unspeakably beautiful, and especially so at sunset. The sixth, which wins against the greatest competition, is the Golden Gate Bridge at San Francisco.



ONCE OR TWICE A WEEK the President matches wits with reporters from all parts of the country

It is more than a bridge, it is a feeling that frames the already beautiful San Francisco harbor.

The seventh wonder is the atomic bomb. Alexander and I would stop at Los Alamos, where the first bomb was exploded, and pray that man "might be blessed with the wisdom to employ this wonder for the good, not the evil it contains."

"France's Goal: Neither Moscow nor Detroit," by Harold Callender, New York Times Magazine.

France suffers from the same illness as the rest of Europe—from physical ruin and moral depression which result from a war that was also a social revolution. And France, being an older, more mature nation, is skeptical. She has looked for a leader among her own people, and she has constantly been disappointed. She has been disappointed in her Allies. France fears that England again is supporting a strong Germany on the Continent, and this is not to the interest of the French. France has seen the United States withdraw from Europe once, and she fears what we may do now. France does not like the fact that Russia has kept her from participating in some of the major international conferences.

With this background of disillusionment, France has turned to rebuilding her own nation. She does not want the discipline of Communism, nor does she want the loss of individuality

which the assembly lines of capitalism bring. France is seeking a middle way. She is nationalizing some of her key industries, because she believes individual ownership puts too much power in the hands of a few people. The trend in France is toward a semi-socialized community, where personal liberties are intact.

France refuses to believe that the choice for the Western world is between "Moscow and Detroit." Perhaps she is working out a model that will set the example for other nations which face a similar problem.

"Truman Lacks Full Skill With Press," by Raymond P. Brandt, the Washington Sunday Star.

The Presidential press conferences, held weekly or sometimes twice a week, give a President an unexcelled opportunity to send his ideas out to the world. Yet no President relishes the meetings, for there he must match wits with 100 or 200 reporters who pick up his every word.

Coolidge and Hoover required questions to be submitted in writing before the meetings, and they could cast aside any question they did not want to answer. President Roosevelt did away with the written questions, and took the queries directly from the reporters, as Mr. Truman does.

Of late, President Truman has been answering some questions too quickly. Others he puts off with "no comment." Accuracy would be better served if President Truman gave the questions more thought before answering, and if he gave a fuller answer. It is his responsibility, and it is to his self-interest, to see that the quick give-and-take between him and the reporters does not lead to his giving an incorrect impression of his own views.

"Had 'OPA' in 1776," the Chicago Sun.

Those who say the Office of Price Administration is un-American can toss that argument into the waste basket. A list of ceiling prices was issued in April of 1776 by the Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia. Coffee, chocolate, pepper, sugar, and salt were included. A warning on the price chart said, "Assorted vultures who are preying on the vitals of their country in time of common distress by selling above prices set by this price chart shall be exposed by name to public view."

George Washington himself said of the violators, "No punishment is too great for the man who can build his greatness upon his country's ruin."



GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE of San Francisco—one of the seven wonders of the modern world, according to an outstanding world traveler

The Story of the Week

News Leaders

Early summer finds a number of public leaders hard at work familiarizing themselves with the details of their new positions.

Fred Vinson of Kentucky is winding up affairs as Secretary of the Treasury in order to become the Supreme Court's new chief justice. This post is his first of a judicial nature since he served on the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

The Treasury is being taken over by John Snyder, President Truman's banker friend from St. Louis, Missouri. It is the third time in little



HARRIS & EWING
APPOINTEES Fred Vinson and John Snyder



HARRIS & EWING
APPOINTEES Warren Austin and Eugene Meyer

more than a year that Mr. Snyder has stepped into Mr. Vinson's shoes, for he followed him first as Federal Loan Administrator and then as director of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion. In the latter office, Mr. Snyder will not be replaced, for it is not expected to be needed much longer.

Warren Austin, Republican Senator from Vermont, is resigning from the Senate to succeed Edward Stettinius as American representative on the United Nations Security Council. The President's action in naming him was well received, for Senator Austin's chief interest in recent years has been the furthering of international cooperation. He helped to lay the groundwork for the UN Charter, and in Mexico City last year he played a prominent part in drafting the Western Hemisphere defense agreement.

Another Republican who is taking over a position of outstanding importance is Eugene Meyer, publisher of the Washington Post. At the suggestion of President Truman, the directors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development elected Mr. Meyer as their first president. His task involves the lending of money to nations whose industries have been wrecked by war, and his extensive experience in banking and government finance should serve him well.

Something Wrong

When teachers with college degrees are paid less than high-school graduates in their first jobs, it is difficult

to escape the conclusion that there is surely something wrong somewhere.

Exactly this situation exists in the nation's capital. The public school teachers of Washington have been told that there are no funds available for increasing their salaries, but government agencies are offering high school graduates with stenographic skill as much as \$2,168 a year to start. Elementary teachers who are college graduates begin at \$1,900.

Under the circumstances, it is not surprising that there are few applicants for teaching positions. The classrooms of teachers' colleges are half empty, though other institutions of higher learning are packed to the doors. And many young men and women who have just earned degrees in education are making last-minute decisions to enter the business world simply because the profession for which they prepared themselves cannot offer them an adequate living.

Men for the Army

Selective service, with 18- and 19-year-olds subject to the draft, will continue for almost a year if the bill recently passed by the Senate is approved by the House of Representatives.

Ever since V-J Day citizens in all parts of the country have asked Congress for speedy demobilization of the armed forces, and they have not supported further draft legislation. The Army, Navy, and other governmental departments, on the other hand, have pleaded with Congress not to cut off their supply of men too soon. They need men, they say, to replace those who have already served for two years, to help dispose of surplus property abroad, to carry out our occupation programs, and to back up our foreign policy.

In arguing against the draft, Congress has said that enlistments should provide enough men for the Army's needs. "But they don't," the Army says. During the last three months, enlistments have decreased by about one-half, and recently when 180,000 men were released, only 71,000 were available to take their places.



GENERAL MOTORS PHOTO
TOTALLY BLIND, yet this veteran has returned to the Buick plant where he was employed before the war. He is doing a "good job," they say—and Buick and the veteran are to be congratulated.

The Senate bill, which most observers believe the House will finally accept, provides for the continuation of selective service, for the drafting of men between 18 and 45 years of age if they have no children, and for increases in the pay for all ranks. It is hoped that the pay increases will encourage enlistments.

Italian Republic?

Rome was busy setting up the first Italian republic last week, when King Humbert unexpectedly refused to turn over his power to a new government. According to the count of votes in recent elections, Humbert had been deposed. The king, however, charged "fraud" in the count; and now Italy must await the decision of the courts before she knows whether she is a monarchy or a republic.

The voting was close, but the tally showed that approximately 54 per cent of the people preferred a republic. If this count was correct, the Italian people, like the French in their recent elections, have indicated that they want to avoid extremes in their post-war government. In rejecting the

monarchy, the Italians did not swing to the other extreme, for they elected a Constituent Assembly, or legislative body, made up of men who are moderate in their views.

Discussion of Italy's form of government has shown a sharp split between the northern and southern parts of the country. The greatest support for the republic has come from the north and that for the monarchy from the south.

Even before Humbert refused to give up his throne, it was feared in some circles that southern Italy might go so far as to threaten civil war. Humbert's action has strengthened this fear. The fact that Italy is exhausted from the recent war makes a "fighting" civil war seem improbable. But failure of the north and south to cooperate would hold back reconstruction in Italy and would be almost as serious as outright fighting.

On the Air

A worth-while weekly radio program is NBC's "Home Is What You Make It." The little dramas of this series are put on the air Saturday mornings at 10:30 Eastern Standard Time by the National Broadcasting Company's University of the Air.

Another new NBC series is "The Schools Are Yours." The National Education Association is assisting with these programs, the purpose of which is to reveal aspects of the educational picture that not even those who are a part of it are always in a position to see. They are broadcast Saturdays at 3:30 P. M., Eastern Standard Time.

A Free India at Last?

Indian freedom is within sight at last. Now that the Moslem League has agreed to the British government's proposals for drafting a new constitution, the last big obstacle to independence is out of the way.

Under the British plan, an all-Indian cabinet is to administer the government until a constituent assembly frames a free Indian constitution. Britain has suggested a new government which would leave the different states and provinces free to run themselves under the general direction of



ACME
HOMELESS WANDERERS crowd the cities of China. Some in the picture above have returned to find their homes in Changsha, Hunan Province, destroyed. Along with them are many who are en route to their homes in other provinces. Relief officials try to help them all.

a central union. The union would handle foreign affairs, defense, and communication—other things would be up to the states and provinces.

The Moslem League's change of heart about the British plan does not mean that it has given up its hope of Pakistan, a separate Moslem state in northern India. The League's leader, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, has made it clear that he looks on the British program as a stepping stone to Pakistan. There are two provisions he thinks particularly favorable: member states will be free to form blocs within the framework of the union, and a majority of both Moslems and Hindus will be required to decide issues affecting the rights of the two great religious groups.

Atomic Research

While Congress debates the question of civilian versus military control of atomic energy, and while the United Nations discuss international control of the bomb, scientists are experimenting with peacetime uses for the energy. A group of outstanding scientists, some of them associated with wartime work on the bomb, have been brought together by the University of Chicago to delve into the innermost secrets of atomic energy.

These men say that in our relation to atomic energy we are like the first men who used fire. "Early men," they say, "made fire thousands of years before they understood what made it burn. The modern men who produced atomic energy want to find out more about the source of this energy."

The General Electric Company is also working on the secrets of the atom. This company has a contract from the government to study the possibilities of generating power from atomic energy, and their scientists will operate the government-owned plant in Hanford, Washington.

Both groups of scientists see the development of more goods for more people from atomic energy.

Lessons from France

Twice in recent elections the French people have rejected communism in favor of democracy. The first time was when they refused to accept a constitution which might have led to a dictatorship by one party. The French feared that such a constitution would be an opening wedge for communist control of the country.

The second time was in the more recent elections of an assembly to draw up a new constitution. In these elections the communists won only about one-fourth of the seats in the assembly. Most observers think the French did not accept communism because they feel they can gain the social and economic reforms they need without sacrificing personal liberties.

Walter Lippmann, in commenting on the French elections says that they have two important lessons for us. The first is that where democracy is well established, people cling to it stubbornly, but that where it has not taken root, it will take a long time to develop it. Democracy in France is almost as old as it is in the United States. In other parts of Europe, where the people have not had self-rule, totalitarian governments have a stronger hold.



SUNDAY VISITORS at the home of our country's founder. Mt. Vernon, George Washington's historic home, again draws huge crowds every Sunday

HARRIS AND EWING

Mr. Lippmann says that the second lesson for the United States in the French decision is that democracy and individual liberties can best survive in peace. In our relations with European nations, he says, we must see to it that there is neither another world war, nor general civil war. If there is peace, democracy will have a chance in those countries which have not yet been able to develop it. But if there is another war, the progress of democracy will be seriously retarded just as it has been during the recent war period. Another war, in fact, might create conditions under which democracy could not survive.

Top Seamen

As one industrial crisis follows another, various labor leaders come to the fore. Walter Reuther, John L. Lewis, and the team of Alvanley Johnson and Alexander Whitney came into the news as the automobile, coal, and rail disputes followed each other. Then the shipping crisis brought Joseph Curran and Harry Bridges into the headlines.

Labor leaders are almost always controversial figures, and Curran and Bridges are no exception. Both have been labeled "radical" and "communist," and both have been hated and feared by the shipping operators. On the other hand, both have denied being communists, and both have extensive influence over the nation's seamen.

Harry Bridges is well known for the attempts to deport him from this country. Born in Australia, Mr. Bridges shipped as a seaman to San Francisco and decided to stay in this country and sail on American vessels. Soon he was working to organize maritime workers on the Pacific Coast. Within a few years he had started seven different unions for waterfront workers and seamen, and he brought them together in the Maritime Federation of the Pacific. His demands were for higher wages, shorter working hours, and better working conditions.

The strikes which he led brought forth the cry "Deport that alien agitator," for Mr. Bridges had not been naturalized. Twice he was ordered to leave the country, but both times the courts held the orders unconstitutional. Now he is a citizen.

Joseph Curran was born in the United States, but he too has been attacked for his views and activities. Like Bridges, Mr. Curran went to sea when he was young, and made up for his lack of education by reading world history and economics in the ship's library. Described as a natural leader, Mr. Curran soon began organizing his fellow workers along the East Coast. His demands were also for improvements in wages, hours, and working conditions.

Mr. Curran and Mr. Bridges are at the head of the Committee for Maritime Unity which represents the principal seamen's unions.



THEY SPEAK FOR THE SEAMEN. Joseph Curran (left) and Harry Bridges, presidents of important maritime unions, as they recently met with Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach to discuss the dispute between ship owners and seamen.

Readers Say—

Many people of our country think that we should not send our food to Germany because of the way she treated us during the war. Then these same people say that they want a lasting world peace.

How can we have a lasting peace if the people of America continue to consider Germany our enemy? The feeling of hatred among nations during the war should be forgotten. Everyone should do his part to help make a lasting peace.

It seems to me that if America expects to live up to her name as a Christian nation, the best thing for her to do is to send food to Germany, in spite of the fact that we were enemies during the war.

MARY JONES,
Phenix City, Alabama.

* * *

Your article "What Are Your Summer Plans" advised every student to engage in some manual work if possible. I do not agree that students should find manual labor. I believe a student can gain much more by indulging in some occupation such as selling in a department store, for example. Here one would meet different types of people and learn how to get along with them. The ability to get along with people will be very necessary in later life.

Summertime should be a time for character building as well as body building.

LEO SMULEVITZ,
Chicago, Illinois.

* * *

Is the United Nations merely two words which sound important but mean nothing? We are supposed to have signed a charter which signifies our faith in our fellow nations and our willingness to work with them.

Why is it that each time an important issue comes up the "United" Nations start wondering whether they should work together? Of course, we should entrust the secret of atomic energy to an international authority. Isn't it better to have the comparatively safe feeling of knowing that many nations have the secret than just a few? If every nation has the secret, the nations working together will probably invent peacetime uses for atomic energy, rather than using it in war and being destroyed themselves.

SHIRLEY R. SNYDER,
Washington, New Jersey.

* * *

I was shocked to read your defense of the lobbyists, where you say that it is only natural for everybody to look out for his own interest, and that the public should wake up and organize itself. I believe this contention is distorted and one-sided, since no group has the right to gain for itself at the expense and the ruination of the country at large.

A. FISHMAN,
Brooklyn, New York.

* * *

(Editor's note. If our discussion left the impression that we approved lobbying and advised that all groups of the population look after their own interests, regardless of the public welfare, we regret it. Such was not our intention. No group should seek to benefit itself at the expense of the general public.)

Our argument is that larger numbers of the population should express their wishes to the legislators. Those Americans who are interested in the welfare of all the people should be as active in supporting the policies for which they stand as are the small groups whose interests are narrow and selfish. It is better for Congress to hear from many people than to hear from only a few.)

* * *

I believe a Missouri Valley Authority, similar to TVA, would be an excellent improvement for the nation. With the increasing demand for food in foreign countries, we cannot afford to waste food, time and money on farm lands which are cultivated only to be flooded and lost.

The development of America's great river systems, such as the Missouri and its tributaries, will be advantageous to our industries as well as to our farmers. An MVA would check seasonal floods, increase and improve navigation, improve soil conservation, and harness additional hydroelectric power.

FLORENCE SALE,
Seneca, Wisconsin.

Army Changes

(Concluded from page 1)

newspapers and magazines. They studied official reports concerning morale and discipline.

At the conclusion of its investigation, the board announced that "the causes of poor relationships between commissioned and enlisted personnel are traceable, in general, to two main factors: Undeniably poor leadership on the part of a small percentage of those in positions of responsibility, and a system that permits and encourages a wide official and social gap between commissioned and enlisted personnel." In other words, the board found a chasm separating the leaders from the led, and it believed that poor leadership had increased the width of the barrier.

Like the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, this barrier-chasm is made up of a number of smaller canyons. The more important ones listed by the board are the following:

1. **Pay.** As a group, of course, officers are more highly paid than enlisted men, though comparisons are difficult to make because of the many different allowances which enlisted men may earn and the fact that officers must pay for their food and their uniforms. The policy of higher salary for greater responsibility is generally accepted as fair, but there is strong sentiment for certain upward revisions in the pay of enlisted men.

2. **Military Law.** Only officers may serve on courts-martial. Some critics charge that this practice has resulted in heavy sentences for enlisted men and lighter ones for officers.

3. **Saluting.** Enlisted personnel are required to salute all commissioned officers. There is widespread "gripping" against this "nuisance."



GI JOE may reap benefits from the "Gripe" Board's findings
GALLOWAY

4. **Uniform.** Until July, 1948, when identical uniforms will be adopted, officers will continue to dress up in "pink" trousers and coats of dark-green elastique while their men wear government-issue olive-drab uniforms, the coat and trousers of which just miss matching in shade.

5. **Segregation.** Officers dine separately either in their own mess or at an officers' club, and they are served by enlisted men or civilian waiters. Enlisted men eat cafeteria style, usually in much less elegant surroundings, and their food is often inferior in preparation. Officers and men have separate clubs, and in post theaters officers and their families are separated from enlisted men and their



"CASTE" INVESTIGATORS. Secretary of War Patterson (seated, center) and the group of ex-servicemen who recently made an investigation of the Army's much discussed "Caste System." Chairman of the Board, General Jimmy Doolittle, is at Secretary Patterson's left.

families. It is not customary for officers and men to mix socially.

Soldiers might accept such discrimination with little grumbling if they could feel that their officers were high-calibre leaders who always considered their men's welfare before their own. But the investigators found plenty of evidence to support the view that too many officers failed to win the respect of their men.

Inexperienced Officers

Our wartime officer personnel, the board pointed out, was for the most part as green as grass. The Army's officer strength jumped during the war period, from 15,000 to 897,777. In the wartime Army only two per cent of the officers were Regulars, three per cent National Guard, and 15 per cent Reserve, and among these many were quickly advanced to positions of much greater responsibility than those for which they had trained. Of the remaining 80 per cent, one-sixth had been appointed straight from civilian life, nearly half had been rushed through Officer Candidate Schools, and the rest had obtained their appointments either directly from the enlisted ranks or as aviation cadets. To make matters worse, the Army seldom took effective action to get rid of officers who had proved incompetent.

Believing that it was necessary both to remedy the system and to provide it with better leadership, the Doolittle board recommended:

1. The most efficient methods of personnel selection should be used in choosing men for positions of responsibility. Except in the case of certain technicians, all officers appointed should have previous military training, preferably a year in the enlisted ranks. Officers should be promoted on the basis of merit and demoted for incompetence.

2. New rates of pay should be established for all grades, taking into account the increased rates now prevailing in industry. Food should be distributed equitably, regardless of rank. In assigning quarters for married personnel, family size should be considered as well as rank. The uniform

of officers, as well as that of enlisted men, should be issued by the Army.

3. There should be "definite equality of treatment of both enlisted and commissioned personnel in the administration of military justice." Enlisted men should be permitted to sit on courts, but every member of a court should be senior in rank to the accused. While an enlisted man, therefore, could not judge the acts of an officer, he could at least help to see that other enlisted men received justice. The higher the rank of the offender, the more severe should punishment be.

4. The salute should be abandoned off Army posts and off duty except in occupied countries.

5. Privileges should be limited to those "essential to the performance of duties," and definite steps should be taken to see that they are not abused.

6. "All statutes, regulations, customs, and traditions which discourage or forbid social association of soldiers of similar likes and tastes," because of difference in rank, should be abolished.

7. Military personnel of all grades should be called "soldiers," and the terms "officer" and "enlisted man" should be replaced by some such designations as "member of commissioned corps" and "member of non-commissioned corps."

The publication of these recommendations was greeted with much favorable comment. The board's statement that "the present system does not permit full recognition of the dignities of man" was widely acclaimed, and the changes proposed to make the system more democratic were applauded in many quarters.

Citizens who had been worried by the angry charges leveled at the Army welcomed the assurance that "in the strict sense, the phrase 'caste system' is inappropriately applied to our Army at the present time since the selection of individuals for commissioned rank is based on democratic principles."

But not all comment was favorable. Some people scorned the very idea of a democratic army. Said one writer, "There is not, never has been and never could be any such thing as a 'democratic army.' By its very nature,

an army is an autocracy in which the decisions of those in command must be carried out to the letter."

Another commentator feared that the board was trying to make the Army "more democratic than American civilian society." "The big corporation," he wrote, "has a special dining room for its executives, lunch rooms for its whitecollar workers, and either a cafeteria or the old lunch box for the workman. The executive and whitecollar classes enjoy their country clubs; the working class uses public parks and public entertainment."

Saluting, such critics maintained, has nothing to do with the gap between officers and men. It is required of all ranks, from the highest to the lowest, the junior in rank merely saluting first. It is as much a privilege as an obligation, for convicted prisoners are not permitted to salute.

The suggestion that terms seven or eight syllables long be substituted for "officer" and "enlisted man" occasioned not a few grins.

Chief Criticism

The most severely criticized recommendation was the one concerning officers' and men's meeting socially. Many veterans—former officers, especially—believe that an officer who mixed socially with his men off duty would have difficulty obtaining instant and unquestioning obedience when he wanted it. They think that there would be quarrels between enlisted men and officers in clubs and elsewhere, and that the destruction of morale and discipline would result.

What action may be expected on the Doolittle recommendations has not yet been revealed. Army spokesmen are favorably disposed toward certain of them, but some, such as the suggestion to make merit rather than seniority the basis for promotion, may meet with stiff opposition in the War Department. Changes in pay and allowances require action by Congress.

Though reformers hope for great improvements from the recommendations of the board, cynics hold that the government's intentions are neatly summed up in the chairman's name.

Books of the Week

"Restless India" and Mahatma Gandhi

(The following reviews of recent books are a summary of the authors' viewpoints, which are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

INDIA to many Americans is simply the land Columbus was looking for when he discovered the western world—a land of spices, fabulously wealthy princes, strange religions, and stranger magic. To others, it stands out because of its huge population and poverty, the turbaned men and fascinating animals of Kipling's stories, and a man named Gandhi dressed in a loincloth and fighting for independence.

"All this is part of India," says Lawrence K. Rosinger in his new book, *Restless India* (New York: Henry Holt, \$2) "but there is much more." His book, one of the Headline Series sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association, tells the facts underlying the picturesque and mysterious surface of Indian life.

As Rosinger sees it, the most important fact about India is bigness. The whole of Europe, including European Russia, is only a third larger than this great subcontinent jutting out from the main body of Asia. Some 400,000,000 people inhabit its 1,575,000 square miles—more than inhabit any other country except China.

India's bigness accounts for the next important fact about her—variety. India is a land of contrasts and extremes. Her territory includes the high Himalaya mountains in the north and the low, flat plains in the south. All kinds of weather can be found in India, from the burning tropical heat of the lowlands to the coolness of the mountains. The hot, dry summer is followed by months of heavy rains brought in by the monsoons, or seasonal winds.

India's people are as varied as her climate. In language, religion, and nationality, they are as different from one another as any one of them is from a typical American. There are 11 great groups of languages, each spoken by more than 10,000,000 people. Different religions are equally numerous; the Indian people are divided up into Hindus, Moslems, Sikhs, Jains, Parsees, Buddhists, Christians, and followers of a number of other faiths. And with different languages and religions, of course, go different ways of living.

A third great fact about India is primitiveness. Although the country is rich in coal, iron, and many other important metals, it is but slightly in-

dustrialized. India depends upon jute, cotton, tea, hides, and rice for most of her income.

Although such big cities as Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras are densely populated, the majority of the Indian people live in tiny villages and work on farms. Making their homes in simple mud huts, they know nothing of modern ways. They live and work much as Europeans did in the Middle Ages.

India's primitiveness means hardship for her people. Worked by ancient methods, the land does not yield enough to support the ever-growing population. Where an American farmer's acre produces 245 pounds of cotton in a year, an Indian farmer's yields 96 pounds. It is the same story for all other crops.

Because they produce so little, most Indians are terribly poor. The average annual income per person is 23 dollars. Every year, thousands starve to death or die of disease for lack of medical attention. The average Indian may expect to live only 26 years in these circumstances.

Proud History

But behind the troubled India of today is a proud history which goes back 5,000 years. When the ancient Egyptians were building their pyramids, an advanced civilization flourished in the valley of the Indus river, in northwestern India.

A thousand years later, Aryan hordes from the Middle East swept in and built a new civilization. Parts of India were conquered again by Alexander the Great in the fourth century B.C. Empires came and went until the eighth century when Moslem invasions of India began. Finally, in 1526, Babur the Turk established a Mogul empire embracing most of the country.

About this time, however, traders from Europe were beginning to reach India. As the Mogul empire declined, they became more and more influential. The French, the British, and the Portuguese fought both the Indian rulers and each other in their struggle for trade supremacy. Finally, in the middle of the 18th century, Britain emerged as the chief power in India.

For more than 100 years, Britain controlled India through the British East India Company. But in the middle of the 19th century, there were serious revolts among the Indians. Then the British government took over the country.

INDIA IS SMALLER THAN U.S.A. BUT HAS 3 TIMES AS MANY PEOPLE

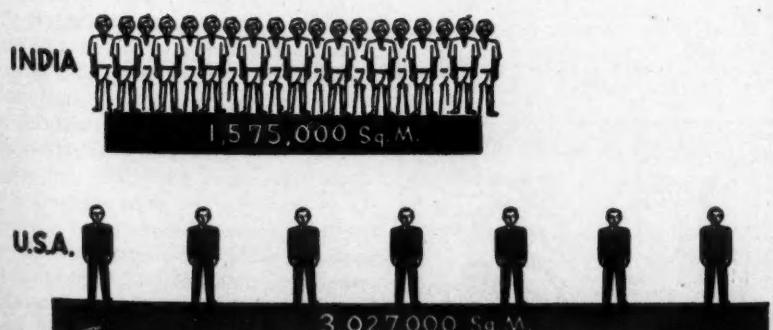


CHART FROM "RESTLESS INDIA"

INDIA'S PRINCIPAL EXPORTS: 1940

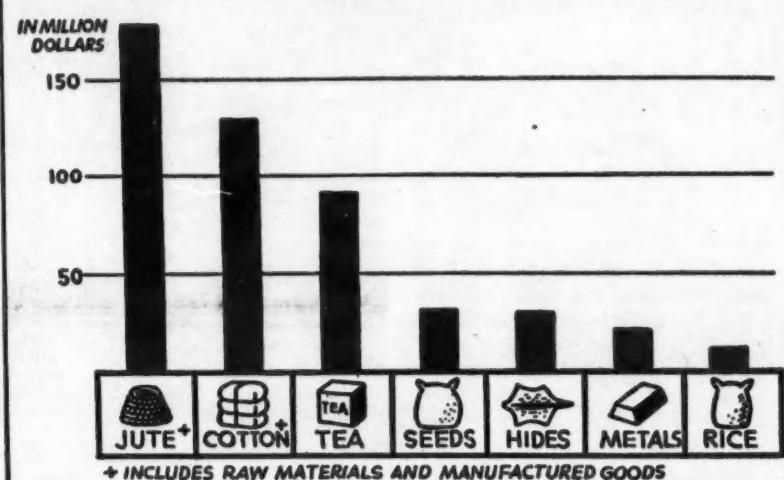


CHART FROM "RESTLESS INDIA"

Bringing India into the empire did not settle the problem, however. An independence movement gradually developed. Step by step, Britain was forced to give the Indians a share in the control of their country. Nationalistic feeling reached a high point at the time of World War I.

At about this point, the story of Indian nationalism becomes the story of one of India's greatest men—Mahandas K. Gandhi. Gandhi has been the moving spirit of the independence movement for 30 years and is likely to influence developments in India for years to come.

Gandhi, as his fellow-countryman, Krishnalal Shridharani, presents him in *The Mahatma and the World* (New York: Duell, Sloan, and Pearce, \$3.50) is a fascinating mixture. His social and religious ideas reflect his oriental background, while his political shrewdness testifies that he has learned from the west.

Gandhi grew up in a fairly prosperous Hindu home in western India. He had his first taste of western ideas and customs when, at 18, he went to England to study law. But it was neither in India nor in England that he first attracted attention as a leader; his real career began in South Africa.

In South Africa, where Gandhi went as a young lawyer, he found himself part of an Indian community which was badly treated by the European majority. Soon he was leading the Indians' fight against discrimination.

It was in the course of a campaign to have certain discriminatory laws repealed that Gandhi introduced his great weapon—civil disobedience. He urged his followers to disregard the laws they considered unfair. They were to go to jail or to accept any other penalties. What they were not to do was to fight back.

Civil disobedience fits in with Gandhi's religion, for he, like millions of other Hindus, believes that violence is wrong. It also fit in with the problem the Indians faced in South Africa. They were outnumbered and poor, so they could not hope to match force with force. But they could hope to embarrass the government.

They succeeded, for public opinion all over the world rallied in support of their cause. Finally, the discriminatory laws were taken off the books. The next step for Gandhi was to use this new weapon for independence.

Returning home, Gandhi soon took his place as the foremost leader of the

Indian nationalists. At first, he had no thought of complete independence for his country—he merely wanted a measure of self-government for India within the British empire.

But, as Shridharani tells it, he changed his mind after World War I, when Britain failed to give the Indians the new rights they had expected in return for their help to the Allied cause in the war. Gandhi organized and led civil disobedience campaigns again and again. The British jailed him again and again. But his popularity grew, and Britain was eventually forced to grant reforms.

Demand Independence

In 1930, Gandhi and his followers demanded complete independence from Britain and began their non-violent war for freedom. Gandhi led his followers on the famous "march to the sea" in which thousands openly disobeyed the British law forbidding them to manufacture salt without government permission. Then came new arrests, but, finally, a compromise. Britain agreed to give India a new constitution.

The new constitution went into effect in 1935, but Gandhi and the other Indian leaders were still dissatisfied. They continued their struggle up to and throughout the war. Now that Britain has at last agreed to give India her freedom, new arrangements are being debated.

Beyond freedom from British rule, what does Gandhi want for India? As Shridharani explains, his views about India's future have brought him into conflict with most of the other Indian leaders.

Simplicity is the keynote of his ideas. Gandhi does not want to see India a land of factories and big cities. He thinks the Indian people can support themselves in their villages, growing food and spinning cotton on a small scale. He has tried to promote village industry and he has set an example by spending a part of each day spinning cotton on an old-fashioned spinning wheel.

This point of view has lost Gandhi some of his support in recent years, for many other Indian leaders feel that their country can become strong only by developing its resources along modern lines. They believe in mass production and up-to-date industrial and agricultural methods. Yet, as Shridharani points out, Gandhi remains the most influential person in India.



STATE DEPARTMENT BUILDING. This impressive structure, west of the White House on Washington's Pennsylvania Avenue, has long been the home of the State Department. Soon the staff that manages our foreign affairs will move to other quarters, and "State" will be given over to executive offices for the President.

Day-by-Day Foreign Relations

Major Powers Plan to Streamline Diplomatic Services

NEWS comes that each of the Big Five nations is giving attention to its schools for training diplomats and each is making plans to modernize its foreign service. If these plans are carried through, the level of diplomacy and statesmanship may rise in the years ahead. This will mean that the embassies and legations, and other agencies which carry on foreign relations, will be staffed with more skilled personnel, and that they will be organized along more efficient lines. Such a development, if it progresses rapidly enough, might play an important role in preserving world peace, for diplomacy of a high order is urgently needed.

In our country, State Department officials and Congressional leaders have felt for some time that there should be certain changes in the program of training foreign service personnel. They also think that there should be revisions in the entrance examinations for men and women entering the foreign service of the United States.

For example, a Division of Training Services was set up last year in the Foreign Service Office of the State Department. This branch will give to people already in the service additional training, with particular emphasis on language courses. In addition to this program, another is being planned for the near future. Called an in-service training plan, it would provide instruction and special courses for members of the foreign service who have been on duty in foreign lands.

The State Department feels that far too many foreign service personnel lose touch with their native land because of long periods of work abroad.

When the in-service training program is put into effect, it will help to remedy this situation. Groups of the 11,000 foreign service men and women will be called back to the United States every three to five years and be enrolled in special courses. They will then return to their foreign stations.

Another change which is slated for the American foreign service is a re-

vision of the rigid examination which candidates for the service must pass. Seasoned diplomats feel that this difficult academic exam, which includes complex questions on history, political science, international law, economics, in addition to a variety of other subjects, should be superseded by a more practical type of test.

In Russia there are expansive plans underway for the training of future diplomats. Some of these have been in operation for several years; others are being designed for the immediate future. The Soviet Union found itself in a disadvantageous position not long ago, for, although it was a world power, it lacked a well-trained corps of diplomats such as other world powers had.

A College of Diplomacy was set up in Moscow a few years back, and since then, there have been additional and concerted efforts to make up for the

lack of trained personnel for foreign service. Institutes of various kinds have been established to instruct men in the techniques of diplomacy.

France, too, is making some changes in her foreign service training program. Today there is less emphasis on political topics, and more on social and economic problems.

For the first time in her modern history, China is developing a system of recruiting and training diplomatic personnel. Candidates for career diplomacy are chosen from the nation's most progressive colleges and universities. Unlike the system of the past, these candidates are chosen primarily for their ability and not on the basis of their family background and wealth.

Even Great Britain, whose foreign service is generally considered second to none, is making certain revisions in its diplomatic machinery so as to make it operate more efficiently.

NOW FOR A SMILE

The bus driver asked the little girl how old she was.

"If you don't mind," she said, "I'll pay my full fare and keep my statistics to myself."

★ ★ ★

The wife and daughter of a captain were halted by the sentry at the main gate.

Sentry: "Sorry, ladies, but you can't get in here without a pass."

Wife: "Oh, but we are the Berrys!"

Sentry: "I don't care if you're the cat's whiskers, you don't get in without a pass."

★ ★ ★

"I repeat, you've been out with worse looking fellows than I am, haven't you?"

"I heard you the first time. I'm just trying to think."

★ ★ ★

"How long are you in a bathtub?"
"The same length I am anywhere else."

★ ★ ★

"Will you have another piece of pie, sir?"

"Is it customary?"

"No, it's huckleberry."

★ ★ ★

We've heard that the ten best years of a woman's life are between 29 and 30.

Salesgirl: "Here's a lovely sentiment on this card: 'To the only girl I ever loved'."

Sailor: "That's the stuff. Give me a dozen of them."

★ ★ ★

Student: "What's that you wrote on my paper?"

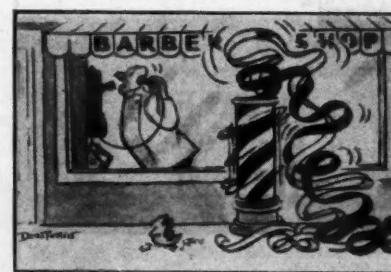
Professor: "I told you to write plainer."

★ ★ ★

The small boy had fallen into the stream, but had been rescued.

"How did you come to fall in?" asked a bystander.

"I didn't come to fall in," the boy replied. "I came to fish."



TORIN IN "THIS WEEK"
Send Somebody, quick!"

Study Guide

Army

1. What was the "GI gripe board," and why was it established?
2. Where did the so-called "caste system" in the Army probably originate?
3. What recommendations did the board make on such problems as pay for soldiers, on courts-martial, on saluting, on uniforms, and on separation of officers from enlisted men?
4. What explanations did the board offer in answer to the criticism that many officers failed to win the respect of the men under them during the war?
5. What criticisms have been made of the board's report since it was made public?
6. Why is the War Department particularly anxious to make the Army "popular" with the public at the present time?

Discussion

When a vast citizens' army must be drafted, as in time of a major war, it must be made up of civilians, who are not used to strict discipline, and who are not used to thinking of the persons under whom they work as "superior" beings. On the other hand, an army must have strict discipline, and the men in authority must be able to command those who are under them. Do you think it possible to maintain the necessary discipline in a "democratic" way, or do you agree with the writer who said there never could be such a thing as a "democratic army"? Give your reasons.

Austria

1. What stand did the Big Three take regarding Austria before the end of the war? Has it been possible yet to make good on this stand?
2. What suggestions concerning Austria did Secretary Byrnes make at the first Paris conference?
3. Why are the western Allies anxious to see Mr. Byrnes' suggestions carried out? What is Russia's position?
4. What problems does continued Allied occupation bring to Austria?
5. Give some of the highlights of Austria's history since the turn of the century.
6. Why was Austria not able to succeed economically after the First World War?
7. What is said to be responsible for Austria's political difficulties?

Discussion

Austria is one of a group of small states which formerly made up the Austro-Hungarian empire. As members of the empire these states traded freely with one another and were fairly prosperous. As independent states they have cut themselves off from each other by tariffs and other trade barriers. A federation of European states is being suggested which might enable these small states to maintain independent governments but would remove trade barriers and allow them to trade freely back and forth. Do you or do you not think such a federation would be a good idea? Give your reasons.